

Date

Justice Marcus Clark  
Supreme Court  
State of Louisiana  
400 Royal Street, Suite 1190  
New Orleans, LA 70130-8101

**Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2015-1242**

Dear Justice Clark:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, at its January 15, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether you, as a Justice of the Supreme Court, may use your campaign funds to purchase books regarding search and seizure for various law enforcement agencies within the state. You stated that you would like to purchase these books for law enforcement agencies located in high poverty areas within your judicial district that would not otherwise have the resources to purchase these educational materials. You also stated that as part of your role as a Justice of the Supreme Court, you frequently educate other officials regarding the law.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act does not prohibit you from using your campaign funds to purchase books regarding search and seizure for various law enforcement agencies within the state. La. R.S.18:1505.2I provides that campaign funds may not be used for any personal use unrelated to the candidate's campaign or his holding of public office. This Subsection also provides that excess funds may be used for a future campaign; returned to contributors on a pro-rata basis; given as charitable contributions as provided in 26 USC 170(c) or contributions to 501(c)(3) organizations; or in support of or opposition to a proposition, political party or candidate. Expenditures for these books are a proper use of campaign funds because they are not for your personal use.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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Jennifer T. Land  
For the Board